

SECRET

5 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ad Hoc Working Group on Emergency Collection Operations

SUBJECT: Emergency Collection Operations

1. Introduction. A memorandum from the D/DCI dated 25 August 1961 levied a requirement on the DDP which requested that there be a review and the forwarding of suggestions relative to the possibilities for mounting emergency collection operations, possibly high risk and provocative in nature and requiring authorization at a high level. The D/DCI had in mind such overt or covert missions as could be expected to ensure confirmation or refutation of alarming information from other sources or the verification of an assessment that the Soviets may indeed be preparing for hostilities or may have taken a decision to initiate hostilities. Such operations could include overflights of the USSR or other bloc nations [redacted]

[redacted] It was suggested that to the extent possible DDP consideration for this type of operation should include possible planning and arrangements for the execution of such measures with minimum delay, the advance establishment of channels for recommending and ordering the execution of such operations, and the establishment of advance preparations by the intelligence community to ensure prompt and maximum intelligence exploitation of the information obtained.

2. DDP Response. In a memorandum dated 31 August 1961, the DDP advised the D/DCI that it was not possible at the moment to say that the DDP was equipped with an operational potential or even specific and detailed plans to meet the requirements of emergency collection operations which involved high risk and were provocative in nature. At the same time the DDP pointed out that he was in agreement with the concept that there was a need for establishing a capability to run such high risk operations. In view of this the DDP initiated action to establish an ad hoc working group on emergency collection operations. The DDP indicated that the membership of this working group would consist of officers drawn from SR, EE, TSD, DFD, FID, Office of Communications and the FI Staff. The DDP agreed to forward a preliminary report of the working group's findings to the D/DCI within seven days, i.e. by 12 September 1961. As an interim statement the DDP indicated that he had in mind the [redacted]

[redacted] The DDP has since forwarded verbal guidance on the subject of emergency collection operations to EE and in so doing has indicated that he wants this matter pursued in a vigorous and imaginative fashion.

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3. Proposals. In an attempt to prepare a frame of reference for emergency collection operations the following categories of operations have been suggested as an initial point of departure for further discussions and planning. These are:

a. Overflights.

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4. Comments. It is hoped that the above will furnish a point of departure for discussions and planning; on the other hand it is not to be regarded as a definitive statement of possibilities. As a result of the 5 September 1961 session and the information contained in this memorandum it is proposed to have another meeting of the ad hoc working group on 8 September 1961.

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The results of the 8 September 1961 meeting should enable us to prepare a draft reply for the DDP's signature and forwarding to the D/DCI.

Theodore Shackley
EE [redacted]

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